

WHEREAS, a total of 1,623 American servicemen and some 50 United States civilians are now either missing in action or being held captive by North Vietnam and its allies; and,

WHEREAS, at the end of the month of March the first men to be taken prisoner began their ninth year in captivity; and,

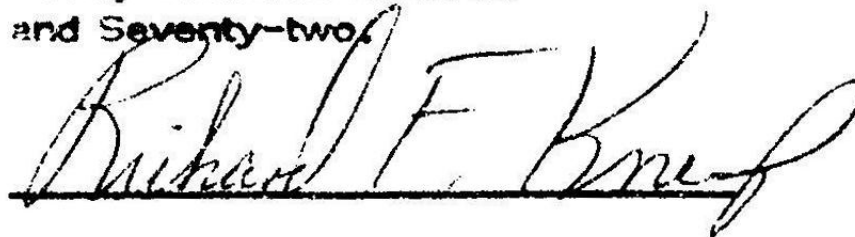
WHEREAS, the enemy continues adamant in his refusal even to identify all the Americans being held; and,

WHEREAS, each new chapter in this outrage has stiffened the American people's determination to see justice done, and this concern for the prisoners' plight has spread to the people of good will throughout the world; and,

WHEREAS, as we set aside a special week of support and national concern for this continuing outrage and a special day of prayer for its resolution, we do so with a determination to persist in this effort for the principle of peace for the sake of these brave men and their parents, brothers, sisters, and wives and children; some of whom they have never seen;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD F. KNEIP, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby declare the period of 26 March through 1 April, 1972, as a State Week Of Concern For Prisoners of War/Missing In Action, and 26 March 1972 as the State-Wide Day Of Prayer for the lives and safety of these men. As the Governor of the State of South Dakota, I, therefore, call upon all the people of this state to observe this week with such appropriate ceremonies and activities as will strengthen and sustain widespread concern for the missing men and prisoners, nourish the patient courage of their loved ones, and, above all, hasten the day of their safe return to home and freedom.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota in Pierre, the Capital City, this 15th day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Seventy-two.



RICHARD F. KNEIP, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



ALMA LARSON, SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA - BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION - OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT - CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY  
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